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# California State Senate

COMMITTEES  
RULES  
CHAIRMAN

SENATOR DON PERATA  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE



March 21, 2005

Liane Randolph, chair, and Commissioners  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Agenda Item #20 – Adoption of "Gift Cluster" Regulations

Dear Chairman Randolph and Commissioners:

Please accept the following comments on Agenda Item #20 at today's, March 21, 2005 Commission meeting, relating to gifts to public officials.

While I fully support the Commission's goal of ensuring that gifts to public officials are disclosed in a manner that serves the public and the Political Reform Act, I urge the Commission to reject the proposed changes to the Valuation of Tickets (Regulation 18946.1).

This Regulation (18946.1) has been in affect for nearly 30 years and has served the public well. The proposed Rule change would have unintended consequences that may cause one public official to violate the "gift limit" attending the same non-profit event as another public official who may well fall within the "gift limit". This is absurd and will only cause confusion among the many elected officials both in state and local government.

Secondly, the proposal to regulate tickets for public officials who attend 501©(3) Fundraisers will deter public officials from participating in events to assist non-profit organizations in their fundraising efforts. Under proposed Decision points 3 & 4, an elected official may be held to figure out the exact cost of a fundraiser, including entertainment. These proposed rules are unnecessary and should be rejected in their entirety.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Perata".

DON PERATA  
Pro Tempore of the Senate

